

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Division of Emergency Operations



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

“Ensuring a Safe  
Harford”

#### EDUCATION

“Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future”

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

“Governing Smarter”

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

“Growing and Sustaining  
Harford’s Prosperity”

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

“Protecting Our  
Environment”

#### QUALITY LIVING

“Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 6, 2013

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### **Harford County Engages Public Safety Officials In Homeland Security Exercise**

(Bel Air, MD) - - More than 100 police, fire, first responders, military and civilian personnel participated in a one-day Homeland Security exercise at Battelle in Aberdeen. Those attending included representatives of federal, state, county and local governments, as well as military representatives from the Aberdeen Proving Ground and Ft. Meade.

The exercise was coordinated by the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations in cooperation with the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security and the Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The objective of the Homeland Security exercise, formally titled “Public Safety Impact Study” was to examine and reveal county and regional gaps in resources necessary to safely mitigate a large scale incident. The tabletop exercise served to review current roles and responsibilities, resources, and communication mechanisms that would be required to effectively respond to an incident involving the Aberdeen Proving Ground and surrounding communities.

The day-long exercise emphasized coordination between military and civilian response personnel within Harford County as well as regional response throughout the Baltimore Region Urban Area Security Initiative.

The exercise included components of several major objectives for evaluation including intelligence and information sharing, mass casualty care, on-site security and protection, operational coordination and public information and communication among others.

Commenting on the “Public Safety Impact Study”, Russell J. Strickland, Manager of the Harford County Division of Emergency Operations said, “The exercise was successful and proved to be a valuable tool for emergency management, law enforcement and our military partners in assessing current readiness capabilities. We look forward to conducting similar exercises in the future to help us be better prepared for acts of terrorism or other serious events.”

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”

